



30 April 2024
QUARTERLY NATIONAL ACCOUNTS (Base 2016) – Flash Estimate at 30 days
First Quarter 2024

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN VOLUME INCREASED BY 1.4% ON A YEAR BEFORE AND BY 0.7% COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS QUARTER

Gross Domestic Product (GDP), in real terms, registered a year-on-year growth rate of 1.4% in the first quarter of 2024, after increasing 2.1% in the previous quarter. The positive contribution of domestic demand to the year-on-year growth rate of GDP decreased in the first quarter, with a slowdown of investment and of private consumption. The contribution of net external demand to the year-on-year rate of change of GDP was nil, with a deceleration in volume of Exports of Goods and Services and a slight acceleration of Imports of Goods and Services.

Compared to the fourth quarter of 2023, GDP increased by 0.7% in volume, same rate as observed in the previous quarter. The contribution of net external demand to the quarter-on-quarter rate of change of GDP turned positive in the first quarter, reflecting the deceleration of imports of goods and services that was more pronounced than that of exports of goods and services. The positive contribution of domestic demand decreased, with a reduction of investment and an acceleration of private consumption.

Table 1. Gross Domestic Product (chain-linked volume data, reference year=2016)

	1Q 22	2Q 22	3Q 22	4Q 22	1Q 23	2Q 23	3Q 23	4Q 23	1Q 24
Year-on-Year Rate of Change (%)	12.1	7.4	4.8	3.4	2.5	2.6	1.9	2.1	1.4
Quarter-on-Quarter Rate of Change (%)	2.3	0.1	0.5	0.5	1.5	0.1	-0.2	0.7	0.7

This flash estimate incorporates new primary information, namely regarding international trade in goods for the fourth quarter of 2023. This new set of information did not imply revisions in the year-on-year and quarter on quarter rates of change of GDP in comparison with the dissemination of the results of the Quarterly Sector Accounts on March 25, 2024.



METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE FLASH ESTIMATES

The publication of quarterly data of the National Accounts is made at t+30 days (GDP flash estimate), t+60 days (detailed results for GDP and its components) and t+85 days (detailed results by institutional sector). It should be recalled that the flash estimates of the rates of change of quarterly GDP in volume are released 30 days after the reference quarter since the second quarter of 2020.

Since the first quarter 2017, when the testing period for the compilation of the GDP flash estimate at t+30 days started, the mean absolute revision vis-à-vis the GDP year-on-year rate of change in volume released at t+60 days was 0.1 percentage points and the revision never exceeded 0.3 percentage points. The magnitude of these revisions is similar to other Member-States.

The flash estimates are calculated using the same methodology, and preferably the same basic information, compared to the Quarterly National Accounts current estimate. It stands out in particular:

- The preliminary version for the short-term statistics for the month of March (retail trade turnover, industry turnover, industrial production, prices in industrial production and services turnover);
- The balance of payments provisional information for the month of March;
- The latest version for international goods trade statistics corresponding to the flash estimate released on April 29, 2024. To estimate the deflators for external trade of goods, the unit value monthly indices were used, calculated based on the international goods trade statistics for January and February 2024.

As mentioned in previous editions, new sources of complementary information have been incorporated, particularly within the scope of the electronic system for issuing invoices and automatic communication to the Tax Authority (e-invoice system) and operations on the automatic teller machines of the Multibanco network.

Understandably, the early publication of the present data carries a greater risk of higher revisions, mainly reflecting the smaller amount of available primary information. However, this early release of macroeconomic information, allows the alignment of Portugal with other EU countries which are, generally, important economic partners.

These results are calculated from chain-linked volume data (2016=100) and data are calendar and seasonally adjusted.

Next Press Release of Quarterly National Accounts - Detailed estimates of Quarterly National Accounts for the first quarter of 2024 will be released on May 31, 2024.
